

This subject, we understand, occupies at present much of the attention and anxiety of ministers. Upon a question of such delicacy and importance, we forbear at present to make any comment. It is one, however, which involves, not only the existence of many respectable individuals, but even the general commercial interest of this country.

The following is from the London Evening Post of the 12th Nov.—

"Some difficulties of a commercial nature, relative to the trade of the West-India islands, are now under the consideration of ministers; but we have little doubt that every thing will be easily adjusted to the satisfaction of both nations; we, however, think, that if America be very impatient and urgent at the present, it is both indecorous and unfair; as a nation engaged in defending its existence, as we are, ought not to be pressed by a friendly power on any subject that is of a nature to admit of delay, which must be the case with every commercial regulation."

Extract of a letter, dated Lancaster, Jan. 19.

"It appears the committee on the memorials of the two contending banks had yesterday determined to report against both proposals—that is, against giving the bank of Pennsylvania their monopoly, for any price at all, and against granting a charter to the Philadelphia bank. But it seems they have to-day had another offer from the bank of Pennsylvania, in which they agree to give as much money for a monopoly for about half the time they at first required, say 14 years, viz.

To give dolls. 200,000
To authorise the state to subscribe 300,000 dollars, and pay for the same in 6 per cent. stock of the U. States at par, on which they guaranty 40 per cent. dolls. 120,000
And the state to have the privilege during the 14 years, to subscribe the balance of 700,000 dollars.

This offer it seems has induced the committee to suspend their report till to-morrow, when, it is expected, it will be in favour of the last offer of the bank of Pennsylvania.—The majority in the committee being four to three. Aurora.

TREMEMOUDOUS INUNDATION.

We have seen letters from Oporto to the 29th of Nov.—These state, that from the 19th to that period, a continual rain had prevailed, which had so raised the water; as to expose the town to great danger of a total deluge. In a few hours the water raised four fathoms. Vessels laying in the harbour, were driven by the force of the element into the streets of the city. Much damage was done to the shipping, &c. and many lives lost in this singular phenomenon.—The ship Prosperity, Joughan, of this port, was carried over the walls of the town, and was retorted to her moorings, with some damage.

JUDGES—SHIPPEN, YATES AND SMITH.
Extract of a letter to the editor, dated Lancaster, January 25, 1804.

"The importance of the subject induces me not to delay for an official account of the facts, which I am about to state, but to give you the information which follows, premising that I have only heard the resolution read, and relate from memory.

"You recollect that at the last session Mr. Thomas Passmore, of your city, petitioned the legislature on the subject of an illegal and arbitrary assumption of power by judges Shippen, Yates and Smith, of the supreme court, in sentencing him to imprisonment for an alleged contempt of court, and praying that the said judges might be impeached. No particular decision having been had at the last session, the business was brought before the present house of assembly, which appointed a committee, (as well as I recollect,) termed, of grievances, who were to consider Mr. Passmore's case. This committee consisted of a member from each county of the state, appointed a sub-committee, which was to report to the grand committee.

"The sub-committee reported this day a resolution to the following effect:—The committee after examining, &c. report, that in their opinion, Edward Shippen, Joseph Yates and T. Smith, three judges of the supreme court of Pennsylvania, have acted illegally, partially and tyrannically, in their proceedings against Thomas Passmore, and therefore offer the following resolution, viz.

Resolved, That the chairman of the grand committee be required to cite the three judges before mentioned to appear before the committee on the 13th of February next, to answer charges brought against them."

"This resolution was carried unanimously. The committee are invested with full powers by the house, so that there is a probability of this becoming a serious business for the judges, and very interesting to the community at large. When further proceedings are had you shall be informed." Aurora.

CHARLESTON, January 7.

It is now upwards of two years since it was observed that an unusual disease had made its appearance amongst the pine trees in the northern and eastern parts of this state. The year before the last, many trees died; but last year the destruction was so great, as to give uneasiness to the owners of land in many places, are thousands of acres where nine tenths of the best trees are killed. The cause of the evil has been carefully sought after, and found to proceed from a small black winged bug, resembling the weevil, but something larger. A great number of these bugs have been observed in the spring of the

year, and early in the summer, flying near the root of each tree; they pierce the bark just above the ground, and lay their eggs between the bark and the wood; in a few weeks after, these eggs hatch, and a worm appears, which, at its full growth, is about an inch long; they immediately begin feeding on the fatty part of the tree, and do not leave off eating until the whole of it is destroyed. It is believed that no attempt has yet been made to remedy the evil, which, if it continues, threatens to destroy the most valuable timber this country possesses.

A gentleman lately from the country asserts, that on a tract of 2000 acres of pine land which he owns on the Sampit river, near George-town, at least ninety trees in every hundred have been destroyed by this pernicious insect, and the adjoining lands and many tracts near Lerud's ferry, on the Santee, and on the Black river, are in the same situation.

BALTIMORE, January 24.

An act proposed to be passed by the legislature of New-Jersey, for the gradual abolition of slavery in that state, provides, that every child born of a slave there, on or after the 4th of July next, shall be free; the males at 25; females at 24 years of age.

A member of the legislature has received a letter from col. Mercer, who accompanied col. Monroe to Europe, stating that there was every prospect of an immediate peace between France and Great-Britain; that there would be a change of ministry in England—Sheridan and Fox coming in—and that Buonaparte had determined to settle down the government of France upon true republican principles.

[Petersburg (V. A.) paper.]

Letters from Cabarrus county inform us that the proprietors of the gold creek (for we understand Reed has disposed of a part of his right in this valuable property) continue to collect this precious metal.—Since the lump weighing 28 pounds was found, eight or ten pounds more have been gathered—So that we have every reason to expect that this discovery will become an inexhaustible source of wealth to this part of the union. [Raleigh paper.]

January 26.

LONGEVITY.

Died in the alms-house, 17th inst. Anthony Bowman, a negro, aged 105, could walk and was possessed of the faculties of hearing, seeing and speaking, a few days before his death. [Aurora.]

Cure for ringworms and tetters.

The rhus radicans, or the toxicodendron of Tournefort, the juice of which is acrid and corrosive, and which by simple contact produces cutaneous eruptions, and has hitherto been known only by its destructive qualities, and by some properties useful in dyeing. Mr. Dufresnor of Montpellier, has accidentally discovered in this plant certain valuable qualities.

Having observed that a young man who had been for six months troubled with a tetter on his wrist, was suddenly cured by handling the rhus radicans (or poisonous vine,) he determined to try its effect in other cases, and after several experiments, has ascertained its efficacy in destroying ringworms, and in healing paralysis.

January 27.

One of our London papers by the packet, says the New-York Mercantile Advertiser, announces that a negotiation between Prussia, Denmark and Sweden, for a definitive alliance, was on foot; and that Russia would be invited to accede to it. The cabinet of Russia is represented as being indisposed towards France, and inclining to England. The chancellor, count Woronzow, is said to be the friend of England, and that he predominates over the French party at St. Petersburg.

The towns of Hamburg and Altona were in a deplorable situation from the blockade of the Elbe, so that many articles of the first necessity were advanced in price to an almost incredible degree. One hundred workmen were about to emigrate to the United States of America in consequence.

January 28.

Among other enterprises we notice the full account of the Russian voyage of discovery. The ships fitted from Petersburg were the Hope and Neva. The first is of 150 tuns, fourteen guns and sixty men, and the other of 370 tuns fifteen guns and fifty men. They are provided with eminent men, who can assist every inquiry of science and history; and Mr. Rafanof is to be ambassador at Japan. The officers are experienced men, and the crews are collected from the whole Russian fleet. From Cronstadt the expedition will proceed to Portsmouth in England, thence to the Canaries. In these islands they are to make inquiries, and commence their labours, and then to pass to South-America. From Brazil they are to visit all the eastern coast as far as the straits of Magellan. After passing Cape-Horn, and entering the great ocean, they are to explore the coast of Chili as far as Valparaiso, and then are to sail for the Sandwich islands. Then they are to visit Japan, and to employ every effort to establish a commercial intercourse between this island and Russia. As this is an important object, which the present trade with China renders interesting to the Russians, much is hoped in obtaining the exclusive trade of China and the Dutch, and in bringing the Chinese to more reasonable terms than have lately been kept with their northern neighbours. All Europe may also profit from the event, and a change in the Chinese commerce is sure should it be accomplished. From Japan the navigators will sail for Kamtschatka and pass the winter in that country in 1805. Then they are to profit from Peyrouse's voyage, and are to visit Kodiak, and all the islands which lie between the northern parts of Asia and

America. Mr. Rafanof, who directs this expedition, is related to the celebrated Sheldon who added the islands to the Russian empire, and first made them acquainted with the Russian manners. From the islands, the navigators are to return to Kodiak, and from thence to pass with merchandise to Canton. This will be the commencement of Russian navigation, as their present commerce is in and by Kiachta, according to a treaty in 1727. The trade has undergone several revolutions since the treaty as the caravans were discontinued from the Russian territories to Peking, in 1755. The Chinese town is south of Kiachta, and Kiachta which is 124 deg. 11 min. E. L. from Ferro, is in 50 N. L. 5514 west from Moscow, and 1532 from Peking. From Canton the Russian navigators are to visit the Philippine islands, and to explore all of them, and then pass to Java, Sumatra, and the peninsula of India. In the part of the voyage they are to examine the European establishments, and to profit from the history of the advancement and decline. They are then to return by the Cape of Good Hope and the Atlantic, and by Baltic, to Petersburg. In the equipment of the vessels 200,000 rubles were expended. Dr. Horn and Dr. Tilesius, and two sons of Kotzebue, will be in these ships, besides other persons qualified for important services to science and humanity. The friends of commerce are pleased with the repetition of the voyages, and when we consider how much has been done for the world since the age of Columbus, and how much we are indebted to Peyrouse and Vancouver, since the time of Cook, and yet how much more still be done, we accept the history of these voyages with the greatest approbation. [Salem Register.]

January 30.

Fort Plaquemine and the Balize were taken possession of by the American troops on Wednesday the 28th ult. at which time several detachments were preparing to leave New-Orleans for the Upper Western country.

Naturalization.—The following bill, amendment of the act at present in force respecting naturalization, has been twice read in the house of representatives of the United States, and was committed to committee of the whole house for consideration Monday last.

A BILL, in addition to an act, entitled, An act to establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and to repeal the acts heretofore passed on that subject. BE it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any alien, being a free white person, who was residing within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States, at any time between the 18th day of June, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, and the fourteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and two; and who has continued to reside within the same, may be admitted to become a citizen of the United States, on any of them, without a compliance with the first condition specified in the first section of the act, entitled, "An act to establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and to repeal the acts heretofore passed on that subject."

Died, in England, John Tucker, a soldier in Alford barracks. He died at 4 o'clock in the morning; before 12 on the same day, his widow was married to another man, and in the evening the happy couple followed the corpse of the first husband to the grave as chief mourners.

Annapolis, February 2.

"DIED, on the 15th ult. in Port-Tobacco, in the 49th year of his age, major-general SAMUEL JONES, a member of the general assembly of Maryland for Charles county. This very worthy gentleman had reached his home, within a few miles of his return from the seat of government, where he had been for some weeks attending to his duties as legislator, when he was arrested by a severe illness to which he fell a victim. Sensible for several days of his approaching end, he met his fate with the fortitude, composure and resignation, which strongly evinced his consciousness of an upright life, and the most lively hope of a happy futurity. To poeprize the dead perhaps too frequently engages the pen of some benevolent character disposed to pay respect to the memory of a departed friend; but to be silent in this instance would be unpardonable in him who, knowing the merits of the deceased, offers this tribute to his virtues. General Jones, at an early period of his life, entered into the army at the commencement of the American struggle for liberty, and served as an officer till very near the end of the war, when imperious circumstances forced him, reluctantly, to retire, after having obtained the most sincere esteem and friendship of his fellow soldiers, in a singular manner, the approbation of his superiors in rank. He has, for sometime past, held the commission of major-general in the militia of this state, and for the last four years has been a member of the house of delegates, to which latter station he was called by the unanimous voice of the voters of the county, and while thus employed (zealous in the cause of federalism) his political opponents have not ventured to attribute to him motives which did not flow from a source of the utmost purity. Brevidulous in his private walks, in the discharge of the duties which endeared him to his neighbours and friends, and having thus finished a life devoted to his country's service, it is entirely within the limits of the Christian hope to say, if philanthropy, honesty, integrity, and patriotism, are recommendations of Divine favour, he must be enjoying the reward of such inestimable virtues."